

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 04906 302136Z

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ACTION CU-04

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P 302024Z APR 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3017

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS CARACAS 4906

FOR: STATE FOR CU/ARA; UIS FOR ILA/RODGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC VE

SUBJ: FY 76 IV PROGRAM: POLITICAL LEADERS ELECTION YEAR

PROJECT-NEW ETA, CHANGE IN COPEI LIST; PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

REF: HOFFENBERG/DICKENS TELCONS

1. SINCE FIRST-CLASS RESERBATIONS UNAVAILABLE MAY 9 PANAM FLIGHT TO NEW YORK (EIGHT OF WHICH HELD BY VENEZUELAN ENERGY GROUP), AND NO MIAMI FLIGHT AVAILABLE, POST HAS MANAGED TO OBTAIN RESERVATIONS FOR FOLLOWINGDAY, WHICH ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL LEADERS GROUP. NEW ETA MAY 10 PAA 218 NEW YORK; TW 63 WASHINGTON/DULLES.

2. COPEI HAS SUBSTITUTED SENATOR GERMAN BRICENO FERRIGNI FOR SENATOR SEFERINO MEDINA, WHO CANNOT TRAVEL. SENATOR BRICENO IS FROM STATE OF MERIDA AND MEMBER OF BOTH FOREIGN RELATIONS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEES. BORN IN MERIDA, ABOUT 45, GRADUATE UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES LAW SCHOOL. PAST LONG-SERVICE WITH COPEI INCLUDES POST AS NATIONAL DEPUTY FROM MERIDA (1959-69), AND PRESIDENT, MERIDA STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (1964); APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MERIDA (FOLLOWING COPEI VICTORY MARCH 1969), FROM WHICH POST HE RESIGNED AUGUST 1973 TO CAMPAIGN FOR HSI PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE SENATE DECEMBER 1973. CLEARANCE OBTAINED. NOT A FORMER GRANTEE.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 04906 302136Z

3. COPEI DEPUTY ABDON VIVAS TERAN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY

WIFE AT WON EXPENSE.

4. GROUP COMPOSITION DUE RECENT CHANGES NOW AS FOLLOWS:

ACCION DEMOCRATICA: HUMBERTO CELLI, JOSE ANGEL CILIBERTO, CRISTOBAL HERNANDEZ, CELESTINO ARMAS, MOREL RODRIGUEZ; COPEI: ABDON VIVAS, GERMAN BRICENO, ALBERTO LOPEZ. APPRECIATE VIA CABLE FISCAL DATA FOR FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL AND \$45 PER DIEM.

5. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: ALL PARTICIPANTS, FOLLOWING MICHIGAN PRIMARY, WISH OBSERVE CAMPAIGN IN CALIFORNIA, VISIT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY) OF UCLA.

AD GROUP PROGRAM TO TERMINATE IN CALIFORNIA WITH RETURN TO CARACAS PLANNED FOR MAY 23. IN WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER, SENATORS KENNEDY AND CHURCH, CONGRESSMAN DANTE FASCELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, AND RALPH NADER; ATTEND CONGRESSIONAL SESSION AND MEET WITH SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; VISIT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PENTAGON AND CIA; WHITE HOUSE TOUR, CITY TOUR AND ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY.

COPEI GROUP WOULD CONCLUDE PROGRAM MAY 30; AND POST SUGGESTS FROM CALIFORNIA THEY CONTINUE ON TO OREGON TO OBSERVE POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND PRIMARY CAMPAIGN THERE. ONLY SUGGESTIONS SUBMITTED ARE FROM ABDON VIVAS WHO EXPRESSED WISH TO MEET SENATORS KENNEDY AND GARRY HART, AND RALPH NADER, AND VISITS TO FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES:

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY; SAIS, JOHNS HOPKINS; OR BROOKINGS, CORNELL (PROFESSOR VANIKL; MICHIGAN (PROFESSOR MORRIS BORDEAER); UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY OR UCLA), TULSA (FOR PETROLEUM CURRICULUM).

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